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'SPOOK' IN YOUTH GROUP SUBSIDIZATION

World 'Peacemonger' in CIA 16 Years

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In Washington social and intellectual circles he has been well known for many years. To the liberals of this college generation, his name means nothing.

These young people might be impressed to know that 20 years ago he founded and headed the United World Federalists to "achieve peace through a world federation."

But if they knew what Cord Meyer Jr. had been doing for the last 16 years, they might also assign him a high place in their current demonology.

During those years Meyer was submerged in the vast anonymity of the Central Intelligence Agency. His name has surfaced again because he was the high level "spook" in charge of the covert subsidization of the overseas activities of the National Student Assn. and other youth groups, labor and professional organizations and charitable institutions.

MYER, at the age 47, seems no less dedicated to the CIA than to world federalism. But the contrast puzzles even some of his friends.

The uproar, particularly in the press and the academic community, set off by the recent disclosure of CIA subsidies to supposedly "free" institutions, led President Johnson to appoint a committee to study the matter. The committee, headed by Undersecretary of State Nicholas Katzenbach, recommended the creation of a "public-private mechanism to provide public funds openly for overseas activities" of private organizations.

The President has accepted this recommendation. If Con-

gress underwrites it, Meyer will have to turn his talents to other work in the intelligence community, for presumably his job will be abolished. In all this, there is matter for irony, for some mystification and possibly regret for the diversion of considerable talent.

In the late 1940's and early 1950's many liberals who wished to serve their country found in the CIA not only a personal haven, safe from the onslaughts of McCarthyism, but also an opportunity to bring to bear on the problems of the cold war a realistic and liberal understanding of the pluralism of emerging countries.

Meyer and many high officials in the CIA are cases in point. That they may have become frozen in cold war attitudes and failed to adjust their ideas and programs to changing circumstances is another matter.

MEYER WAS born in Washington, D. C., and went to Yale where he graduated in 1942, summa cum laude.

He enlisted in the Marines and the war came to an end for him on Guam, when a Japanese grenade exploded in front of him and destroyed an eye.

He served as an aide to Harold Stassen at the founding conference of the United Nations and became obsessed with the fragility of the peace and the seeming inevitability of nuclear warfare unless the U. N. was given the power to impose disarmament by its own forces.

In 1947, while on a junior fellowship at Harvard, he put his plan and timetable for avoiding war in a book "Peace or Anarchy," which

sold over 50,000 copies. He became founder and president of the United World Federalists.

Then, in 1951, he joined the

CIA.

ON TWO THINGS there is agreement. First, that he was personally recruited by Allen W. Dulles, former CIA director, and second, that Dulles stood staunchly by his decision when the late Joseph R. McCarthy attacked him for hiring a "world federalist."

To those who know Meyer only professionally, he gives the impression of being almost the caricature of a CIA agent.

"He is totally grey," said one official, "grey hair, grey suit, grey look, and he gives you the grey answer. He is schooled and skilled in the art of indirection."

Friends say that Meyer reacts negatively to public discussion of the CIA and its programs. His friends agree that he tends to equate the CIA with the nation; that he believes there is a relationship of trust between them; that consequently the CIA should enjoy complete confidence, and that any revelations about, or criticism of, the agency approaches treason.

He was particularly irate over the disclosures of the subsidies to private organizations. Yet, he himself advocated some time ago that the agency begin to disengage itself from some of these connections.

His recommendation, however, was not based on any recognition of the obsolescence of the subsidy program in a changing climate, but upon the likelihood that it was about "to blow."